

IN SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES,

FEBRUARY 9, 1826.

MR. HARRISON, from the Committee on Military Affairs, to whom was referred the Memorials of certain Captains in the Army of the United States, praying for an increase of their compensation,

REPORTED :

That, upon an attentive examination of the subject referred to them, they are decidedly of opinion, that the petitioners are entitled to relief. The reasons, in support of this opinion, cannot be more clearly stated, than in the following extract from one of the memorials :

*“ To the Honorable the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled :*

*“ Your memorialists believe themselves warranted in saying, that few grades in the army are more important to its discipline and welfare than theirs. The captains have the immediate command of the soldiers, and have a direct influence over all their movements and conduct. The execution of all orders relating to the soldiers, depends much upon the ability and promptitude of the captains.*

*“ Excepting disbursing officers, there are no officers in the army, it is believed, who are burdened with such pecuniary responsibilities as the captains ; for they are held accountable for all the arms, clothing, and other public property, appertaining to a company. In every other instance, such accountability is counterbalanced by some extra pay.*

*“ It is an established principle in common transactions, and is doubtless so in legislation, that recompense shall be commensurate with service. Your memorialists believe that the full benefit of this principle has not been extended to them. While their duties, and particularly their responsibilities, have been gradually increased, by various military regulations and legislative acts, and while these regulations and acts have conferred additional emoluments and privileges upon other grades, particularly upon the subaltern grades, the grade of your memorialists has not only derived no advantages from them, but has been deprived of many which it before enjoyed. During the late war, and previously, almost every staff appointment was open to captains, as well as to officers of other grades ; but, at this time, they are excluded from every staff appointment taken from the line,*

(according to the law,) excepting one. Your memorialists believe that such a practice prevails in no other service, and that it operates unfairly, and sometimes injuriously, in ours.

“Your memorialists are aware, that the rules of other services are no guide for us; still, they deem it not impertinent to the present case, to quote the relative value of a captain’s and a lieutenant’s commission in Britain and in France, whence we have derived our best military regulations, and most of our instruction in tactics. A captain’s commission, in a British regiment of cavalry, is rated at £2,950, while a first lieutenant’s, in the same regiment, is rated at £1,500. About the same disparity exists, in this respect, throughout the British service. In the French service, a captain’s monthly pay is more than seventy-five per centum greater than that of a first lieutenant’s.

Some of your memorialists have been in the army for nearly twenty years, and all of them served through the late war. Promotion is so slow during a time of peace, that few of them, even if they spend their lives in the service, can anticipate reaching a higher grade. The allowances they receive are believed to be precisely the same which have been accorded to their grade, from the Revolution down to the present time: while every article of supply which they are obliged to purchase, whether of food, raiment, or military equipment, has been almost constantly augmenting in value.

“B. K. Pierce, *Captain 4th Artillery.*  
M. P. Lomax, *Brevet Major 3d Artillery.*  
M. Mason, *Captain 1st Artillery.*  
R. A. Zantzinger, *Captain 2d Artillery.*  
John Mountfort, *Captain 2d Artillery.*  
Felix Ansart, *Captain 3d Artillery.*  
Samuel Spotts, *Captain 3d Artillery.*  
W. L. McClintock, *Captain 4th Artillery.*  
H. Saunders, *Captain 1st Artillery.*  
R. L. Baker, *Captain 1st Regiment.*  
J. Erving, *Captain 4th Artillery.*  
J. F. Heileman, *Captain 2d Artillery.*  
Henry Whiting, *Captain 1st Artillery.*”